

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's Office Action of May 21, 2007 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

claims 1-3 are cancelled;

claim 14 is amended to specify that the processor determines an average azimuth for all of the sampled points and estimates the orientation by subtracting the determined average azimuth from each measured azimuth at each sampled point. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs [037]-[039] of the present specification;

claims 15 and 16 are cancelled; and

new claims 17-27 are added reciting the subject matter of pending method claims 2-12 with respect to the system of claim 14.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding Claim Objections

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the objection to pending claim 16 based on the cancellation of this claim in the Amendment.

Regarding Double Patenting Rejections

As discussed above, method claims 1-13 have been cancelled in the Amendment, whilst in an Amendment being concurrently filed by the Applicant with respect to copending Application No. 10/683,040 system claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the system claims of the present application do not claim the same invention as method claims of copending Application No. 10/683,040, based on the respective Amendments.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 14 is not disclosed by Ikebata (US 6,226,404), for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 14 has been amended to specify that an average azimuth is determined for all of the sampled points and that the orientation is estimated by subtracting the determined average azimuth from each measured azimuth at each sampled point (see paragraphs [037]-[039] of the present specification).

On the other hand, Ikebata specifically discloses an arrangement in which an average slant angle, determined by averaging a number of measured slant angles of a stylus pen 12, is subtracted from a standard slant angle, which is statistically determined using a large number of written characters, to determine a compensation angle, and then it is this compensation angle which is used to estimate the character pattern (see col. 4, line 28-col. 5, line 4 and col. 6, lines 7-45).

Thus, in Ikebata, the compensation angle, used to estimate the character pattern, is determined by subtracting the average slant angle from a normalised slant angle. This is completely different than the process used in the claimed invention of amended independent claim 1, in which the average azimuth value is subtracted from the measured azimuth values themselves in order to estimate the orientation.

Thus, the subject matter of amended independent claim 14, and new claims 17-27 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed, or suggested, by Ikebata.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

Regarding Ikebata in view of Parthasarathy et al. (US 5,740,273)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of new dependent claim 23 (which recites the subject matter of pending dependent claim 8) is not taught or suggested by Ikebata in view of Parthasarathy, because Parthasarathy does not provide any disclosure which makes up for the above-discussed deficiencies in Ikebata.

Regarding Ikebata in view of Fox et al. (US 4,727,588)

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the obviousness rejection of pending claim 13 over Ikebata in view of Fox, based on the cancellation of this claim.

Specification

A Paragraph entitled "Cross-Reference to Related Application has been inserted at Page 1. The Applicant submits that this amendment introduces no new matter.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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